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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-eighth session
Item 6 of the agenda

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in consultative status (category II)

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[5 August 1996]

1. The Society for Threatened Peoples is extremely grateful to the Sub-Commission for having allowed it to circulate a written statement in 1995 on "The human rights situation in Nagaland" (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/NGO/35). But as the human rights violations remain unabated and the situation grave, we are obliged to submit this written statement in continuation of the last statement.

2. Ever since the occupation of Nagaland by the armed forces of India and Burma in complete violation of Naga nationhood, Indian Governments have declared a "state of emergency" in the form of declaring a "Presidential rule" and "Disturbed Area" more than 10 times. The armed forces exercise the fullest power under the draconian Armed Forces Special Powers Act 1958.

Again, in their desperate attempt to crush the Nagas and their unquestionable right to self-determination once and for all, the Indian Government renewed the declaration of Nagaland as a disturbed area on 1 April 1995, deploying an additional 50,000 special troops called the Third Corps. Ten thousand Burmese troops have also been constantly operating on the eastern side in coordination with the Indian forces. Killings of innocent civilians never stops.

3. The adoption of the new policy of eliminating arrested persons in Indian Army custody in the most cruel manner, which is a serious violation of the Geneva Conventions, has once again shocked the conscience of the people. To cite but only a few examples:

(a) Captain Juneson arrested by the Third Corps of the Indian Army on 28 February 1996 was shot dead in their custody;

(b) Sgt. Maj. Soreingam was arrested, tortured and shot dead on 29 March 1996 in Indian Army custody;

(c) Lance Corporal Shihoto was arrested, tortured and shot dead on the same day in the same custody.

4. The Central Intelligence Department and the army authorities of India have resorted to the most treacherous policy of using hired men to eliminate human rights activists, students and social activists, and church leaders. Only a few names out of the victims are given here for enlightenment:

Particulars	Dated	Places
1. Mr. Avao Muivah, Chief Chemist, Sugar Mill (shot dead)	08.05.95	Dimapur
2. L. Thotshim, Student (shot dead)	01.06.95	Diphur
3. N. Shimreishang, Instructor, St. Xavier School (shot dead)	16.09.95	Jalukie
4. Z. Thoton, Coordinator, Youth Mission (shot dead)	11.10.95	Kohima
5. Rev. K.A. Shimray, Pastor, Kohuma Tangkhul Baptist Church (shot dead)	04.11.95	Kohima
6. Sharpstone, Student and human rights activist (abducted and killed)	March 1996	Dimapur
7. Chanso Shimphrui, Student activist (abducted, tortured and shot dead)	02.04.96	Kohima
8. V.N. Raikhan, Teacher, (abducted, tortured and killed)	02.05.96	Phek
9. Z.V. Yaaopei, Advocate, human rights activist, social activist (shot dead)	23.05.96	Dimapur

Particulars	Dated	Places
10. Neisiehu, ex-Chairman, Kohima-Town (shot dead)	20.03.96	Kohima
11. Thepfuvituo Angami (shot dead)	17.01.96	Jotsoma
12. Mr. Mapu Wati (tortured to death)	01.01.96	Dimapur
13. Huishu Village, Ukhrul district (100 houses burned down by Indian Army Forces)	11.03.96	Huishu
14. Togheho, S.D.O., P.W.D. (shot dead)	15.04.95	Kohima
15. Luithui Golmei, Sub-division officer Tamenglong (shot dead)	21.12.95	Tamenglong

5. Burning down of villages also continues. Huishu village, consisting of 100 houses in Ukhrul district, was burnt to ashes on 11 March 1996.

6. Hundreds of eastern Nagas are being forced to labour in the construction work of the road that connects Khammti town and Lahe to link up with the Indian military points in the west. They are not paid; neither are they given the time to work their fields.

7. Therefore, we earnestly appeal to the Sub-Commission to look into the atrocities of the Indian and the Burmese armed forces against the innocent Naga population and recommend the case to the Commission for condemnation. We also urge the Sub-Commission to recommend to the Commission on Human Rights a fact-finding mission to be sent to Nagaland and to the neighbouring region so that they may be enlightened about the state of affairs there.

8. Lastly, in view of the persisting violations of human rights, we are compelled to plead with the authorities to recommend to the Commission to assign a special rapporteur to take timely stock of the human rights situations there. It is indispensable to do justice to the aggrieved peoples in the regions.